the agencies at the local level involved in preparation and updating such a register; and

the incentives given to the community for sharing the traditional knowledge for registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The steps that have been taken to prepare community knowledge registers under the National Programme for promoting conservation of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge are as follows:

(i) A standard format for Community Knowledge Register has been prepared.

(ii) The facilitating agencies have been oriented towards the role of the Community Knowledge Register in protecting community knowledge of medicinal plants as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

(iii) The Community Knowledge Register is prepared through the involvement and participation of the local healers and with their prior informed consent.

(iv) The Community Knowledge Register thus prepared is maintained by the focal community, and is not given to the facilitating agency,

(b) Under the National Programme for promoting conservation of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge, the facilitating agencies at the local level involved in preparation and updating such a register include;

(i) Swami Ramananda Tirtha Regional Institute, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

(ii) Rural Communes, Mumbai,Maharashtra

(iii) SAMBANDH, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

(iv) Jagran Jan Vikas Samithi, Udaipur, Rajasthan

(v) Tagore Society for Rural Development, Kolkata, West Bengal.

(c) Preparation of registers on traditional knowledge of local people is a measure towards protection of their knowledge from its unauthorized use without sharing of benefits arising from such use. The Biological Diversity Act provides for sharing of benefits arising out of the use of such knowledge with the holders of the knowledge.

National River Conservation Programme

1052. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether Government has decided to revamp two decades old National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) to improve water quality of Indian rivers by 20 per cent in the next five years;

if so, the details thereof;

whether 14 per cent river length in India is severely polluted and rivers like Ganga, Yamuna and Sabarmati are among top polluted rivers; and

the quantum of funds allotted for river conservation. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI N AMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity witii the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is presently under implementation in 164 towns in the country along polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States to improve the water quality of rivers.

Preliminary meetings have been held for discussing the revamping of the National River Conservation Programme with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). The proposals discussed to revamp the strategy include among others, focusing on quantity of river waters as much as on quality, redesigning institutional arrangements at the national and State level, developing suitable indicators for measurement of water quality, integration with urban development Plans, social mobilization and independent oversight.

According to a study by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), out of total riverine length of approximately 45,000 kms. in our country, 14% is severely polluted with a Bio-Chemical Oxygen demand more than 6 mg./litre. Major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, and Sabarmati are among the rivers having polluted stretches identified by CPCB and included under NRCR

A statement indicating State-wise sanctioned cost of schemes under NRCP and release of funds by the Central Government upto September, 2007 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

National River Conservation Programme

State-wise sanctioned Cost and Funds released under National River Conservation Plan

(Rs. in crore)

SL No.	State	Sanctioned Cost of Schemes	Funds Released by Central Government
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	367.51	160.72
2.	Bihar	3.95	*MS*
3.	Delhi	333.34	206.55
4.	Gujarat	101.96	87,92
5.	Goa	14.10	8.56
6.	Haryana	255.08	188.75
7.	Jharkhand	438	445
8.	Karnataka	66.34	41.87

1	2	3	4
9.	Kerala	1845	0.78
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10720	7425
11.	Maharashtra	115.86	104.17
12.	Orissa	60.58	3739
13.	Punjab	215.68	176.05
14.	Rsjasthan	136	1.12
15.	Tamil Nadu	87026	604.41
16.	Uttsranchal	70.62	26.88
17.	Uttar Pradesh	888.79	441.13
18.	Sikkim	26.55	1133
19.	West Bengal	297.37	182.45
20.	Nagaland	31.74	4i0
	GRAND TOTAL	3851.14	2366.64

National River Conservation Plan

1053. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revamp the Rs. 5,000 crore National River Conservation Plan;

if so, the details of the strategy adopted by Government to revamp National River Conservation Plan and the reasons therefor;

whether there is lack of coordination among different departments and States working on the programmes; and

if so, the steps taken by Government for establishing coordination among different departments and the States working on the conservation programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with &e ever iricreasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Government to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches of rivers. The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) presently covers polli«tion abatement works in 35 rivers spread over 164 towns in 20 States of the countjy at an approved cost of Rs. 4793 crore.

Preliminary meetings have been held for discussing the revamping of the National River Conservation Programme with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and